



# TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

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### **Chaplains learn about healing PTSD wounded warriors**

TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER—While many chaplains know Tripler has an “in-house program” to help military members struggling with PTSD, not many knew the full range of the behavioral health programs at Tripler Army Medical Center and Schofield Barracks Health Clinic.

“I didn’t know what was involved,” said Marine Corps Chaplain Karen Rector of the Combat Logistics Battalion at Kaneohe Bay. “Now, if one of my Marines or Sailors is facing an in-house program, I can take away a lot of the questions. I can take away a lot of the fear and the surprise, and they’re more apt to get themselves in the program.”

Rector and 84 other pastors from chapels, churches and temples around Oahu learned about Tripler’s “in-house” program from Dr. Kenneth Hirsch of the Veterans Affairs Pacific Islands Health Care System. Dr. Hirsch heads the PTSD Residential Recovery Program, in partnership with Tripler Army Medical Center.

Chaplain (Cpt.) Tim Wilson, who helped organize the half-day training, said that when it was Tripler’s turn to host the monthly training for all military chaplains and chaplain assistants on Oahu, Tripler’s command chaplain, Chaplain (Col.) Roger Criner, decided to open the training to all civilian ministries on Oahu, something that has never been done before. Chaplain Wilson credited Rubi Innanen, a nurse at the Schofield Barracks’ traumatic brain injury clinic, for suggesting and coordinating the program.

Innanen lives in Ewa Beach and noticed a few service members in her congregation suffering from PTSD.

“There’s a saying, ‘It takes a village to raise a child.’ Well, it takes a community to heal a Soldier, a Marine,” Innanen said. “So we wanted to put it out to all denominations, to include all churches, synagogues, and temples.”

Other speakers during the half-day program included Schofield Barrack Health Clinic’s concussion clinic’s nurse practitioner James Beasley, who explained the clinic’s traumatic brain Injury program. Tripler’s social work department’s Cpt. Rosa Lofton spoke later about how her department’s staff supported military members and their families through the healing process.

“We had an overwhelming response from the attendees, about how informative the training was and the available resources for their parishioners,” said Chaplain Criner. “We wanted to provide an overview of what’s involved with PTSD. We encouraged them to engage their parishioners.”



**Rev. Art Kaufmann of Aiea Hongwanji shares his Vietnam War experiences with Marine Corps Base Hawaii chaplains Lt. Try Todd and Lt. Karen Rector. U.S. Army photo by Leslie Ozawa**



**CPT. Travis James, now with the 196<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, recounts his experiences with PTSD and recovery through the PTSD Residential Recovery Program located at Tripler Army Medical Center. U.S. Army photo by Leslie Ozawa.**